

REMARKS

Claims 20-31 are pending in the application and have been rejected. Independent Claim 31, from which all other claims depend, has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 20-31 in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 20, 24-31 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 20 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sucharczuk et al. (U.S. No. Patent 6,498,732). Withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 31, as amended, recites a measuring device having a front side, a rear side, and an interior. The front side of the device comprises an information-output device affixed thereon, which comprises an integrated display device. Additionally, the front of the device contains a recess providing access to the interior of the device. A plug-in measuring-device module is inserted from the rear of the device and connected via a plug-and-socket panel to the information-output device. An electrical connection on the plug-in measuring-device module projects through the recess on the front side of the device, thus providing electronic access to the plug-in measuring-device module from the front side of the device.

An amendment made to Claim 31 clarifies that the information-output device comprises an integrated display device (e.g. a monitor). Support for this amendment can be found on page 11, lines 22-24, of the application as filed. It will be appreciated by the Examiner that the present amendment is more of a clarification than an introduction of an additional limitation because the pre-amended claim recited an information output device, which, as can be seen from Figure 1, such an information-output device 9, includes a display device 3. Applicants have now made the display device 3 an explicit element of the information-output device 9.

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An additional amendment is the clarification of the language with regard to the electrical connection 6, which is attached to a plug-in measuring-device module that projects through the front side of the measuring-device so as to provide an electrical connection from the front side of the device to the plug-in measuring-device module. This amendment will eliminate the possible confusion between the electrical connection 6 and the electrical connection 55, which is inserted into the plug-and-socket panel from the measuring-device module. Support for this amendment can be found in the application as filed at page 20, line 24, to page 21, line 4, and related figures, including Figure 1, which illustrates the electrical connection 6 protruding through the front of the device, and Figure 4, which shows the electrical connection 6 attached to the un-inserted plug-in measuring-device module before it is plugged into the measuring device. The use of the electrical connection 6 for input and output of signals is also found in the above-cited passage (particularly at page 20, lines 29-32).

With regard to the cited prior art, the Sucharczuk et al. reference describes a chassis for mounted modular electrical equipment that has a primary function of increasing the density of inserted plug-in modules contained within the chassis. Applicants note that the reference does not teach an information-output device that includes an integrated display device, and does not teach an electrical connection on the plug-in measuring-device module that projects through a recess through the front side of the device. Additionally, applicants note that the reference teaches a device having no fixed front and rear portions, as described at Column 3, lines 37-47.

The Examiner has cited the reference as teaching an information-output device in Figures 2A-2C, yet these figures, and the accompanying text, do not teach an information-output device comprising a display device, as recited in the claimed invention.

Additionally, the reference is relied upon as teaching an electrical connection on the plug-in measuring device projecting through the recess on the front side of the device in

Figures 6A-6B. Applicants note that the figures do teach an electrical connection fed through one of the facial sides of the device from a plugged-in module to the outsides of the device in parts 27 and 28. However, in describing these parts, the reference makes clear that this feature is "an electric feed-through 28 which can be operationally connected to an AC inlet 27" (Column 7, lines 12-14). It is apparent that the electrical connection in the reference is meant only to supply power to the plugged-in modules contained within the taught chassis, distinct from the electrical connection of the claimed invention, which is used for the input and output data signals.

Because the Sucharczuk et al. reference does not anticipate, teach, suggest, or render obvious the claimed invention, applicants assert that the invention is not anticipated in view of the reference and withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 21-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

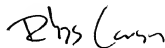
Claims 21-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sucharczuk et al. in view of Porter (U.S. No. Patent 5,808,866). In view of the above remarks regarding the Sucharczuk et al. reference, applicants assert that the Porter et al. reference does not cure the cited deficiencies of the Sucharczuk et al. reference. Thus, applicants assert that the combination of the Sucharczuk et al. reference and the Porter et al. reference does not render the claimed invention obvious and withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20-31 are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action allowing these claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at 206-695-1698 with any questions or concerns regarding the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhys Lawson".

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